

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
16 June 2005 (16.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/055471 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04B 7/26**,
H04Q 7/30

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2003/050881

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR,
CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD,
GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR,
KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN,
MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA,
UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date:
24 November 2003 (24.11.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

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(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE,
SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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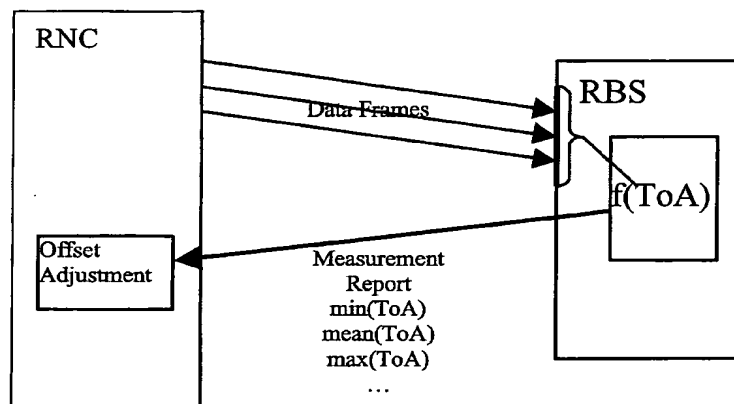
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Published:

— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: FRAME SYNCHRONISATION IN A RADIO ACCESS NETWORK



(57) Abstract: A method of optimizing the timing offsets with which data frames are transmitted over the Iur/Iub interfaces of a UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network, UTRAN. The method comprises, for a given Iur/Iub interface or set of Iur/Iub interfaces over which identical user plane data is to be sent, defining a duration of a data frame receiving window for use by the receiving node(s), transmitting data frames from a sending node with an initial timing offset sufficient to ensure a likelihood that the frames will be received at the or each receiving node within the defined receiving window, reducing the timing offset at the sending node in a stepwise manner, and adjusting the timing offset at the sending node in response to the receipt of late Time of Arrival error reports at the sending node. In a second embodiment, the frame synchronisation of frames corresponding to speech services and data services is carried out by delaying the frames corresponding to speech services a fixed delay and the frames corresponding to data services a variable delay based on a received time of arrival feedback.



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